



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/526,049	09/28/2005	Koji Sode	10921.0287USWO	9150
52835 7590 05/13/2009 HAMRE, SCHUMANN, MUELLER & LARSON, P.C. P.O. BOX 2902 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0902				
EXAMINER				
DESAI, ANAND U				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1656				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/13/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/526,049

Applicant(s)

SODE ET AL.

Examiner

ANAND U. DESAI

Art Unit

1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2007.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 February 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-850)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20050228; 20060823; 20090323
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of the species identified as SEQ ID NO: 1 and the microorganism belonging to the genus *Burkholderia* strain *cepatia* KS1 (FERM BP-7306) in the reply filed on October 5, 2007 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

2. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on October 5, 2007.
3. Claims 1-16 are currently pending and are under examination.

Priority

4. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The priority date is August 30, 2002.

Information Disclosure Statement

5. The information disclosure statements (IDSs) submitted on February 28, 2005, August 23, 2006, and March 23, 2009 are being considered by the examiner. The signed 1449 forms are attached with the instant office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, 1st paragraph, enablement rejection

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The claims are rejected because of undue experimentation to practice the claimed method of preparing glucose dehydrogenase comprising introducing DNA containing the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the first glucose dehydrogenase contains a β -subunit, and a second glucose dehydrogenase does not contain a β -subunit. The undue experimentation arises due to the unpredictability of forming a second glucose dehydrogenase without the β -subunit. The steps to make a second enzyme without a β -subunit while the coding sequence of the β -subunit sequence is present is not clearly enabled.

In *In re Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir., 1988) eight factors should be addressed in determining enablement.

While the analysis and conclusion of a lack of enablement are based on the factors discussed in MPEP § 2164.01(a) and the evidence as a whole, it is not necessary to discuss each factor in the written enablement rejection. The language should focus on those factors, reasons, and evidence that lead the examiner to conclude that the specification fails to teach how to make and use the claimed invention without undue experimentation, or that the scope of any

enablement provided to one skilled in the art is not commensurate with the scope of protection sought by the claims. This can be done by making specific findings of fact, supported by the evidence, and then drawing conclusions based on these findings of fact. For example, doubt may arise about enablement because information is missing about one or more essential parts or relationships between parts which one skilled in the art could not develop without undue experimentation. In such a case, the examiner should specifically identify what information is missing and why one skilled in the art could not supply the information without undue experimentation. See MPEP § 2164.06(a). References should be supplied if possible to support a prima facie case of lack of enablement, but are not always required. *In re Marzocchi*, 439 F.2d 220, 224, 169 USPQ 367, 370 (CCPA 1971). However, specific technical reasons are always required.

1) The nature of the invention: the instant claims are directed to a method for preparing glucose dehydrogenase by transforming any microorganism with SEQ ID NO: 1, which comprises the nucleic acid coding region for the β -subunit, wherein the glucose dehydrogenase does not comprise a β -subunit.

3) The predictability or unpredictability of the art: & 6) The quantity of experimentation necessary: & 7.) The state of the prior art: the prior art has shown the transformation of microorganisms with purified DNA nucleic acids. The unpredictability arises due to the lack of disclosure of how to prevent the β -subunit from incorporating into the multimer complex of the glucose dehydrogenase.

Consequently, there would be a large quantity of experimentation necessary to determine what conditions are required to prepare a second glucose dehydrogenase that does not comprise a β -subunit when the coding sequence is present in the microorganism.

8.) Level of skill in the art: the level of skill in this art is high, at least that of a doctoral scientist with several years of experience in the art.

In consideration of the Wands factors, it is apparent that there is undue experimentation because of variability in prediction of outcome that is not addressed by the present application disclosure, examples, teaching, and guidance presented. Absent factual data to the contrary, the amount and level of experimentation needed is undue.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph, Written Description

8. Claims 7, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, Written Description, because the disclosure does not direct one of ordinary skill in the art to the genus of amino acid sequence wherein one or a plurality of amino acid residues have been substituted, deleted, intercalated, or added to the respective SEQ ID NO: such that the glucose dehydrogenase activity is retained. The disclosure lacks sufficient structure to function correlation.

The Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112, Paragraph 1, "Written Description" Requirement, published at Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 1099-1111 outline the method of analysis of claims to determine whether adequate written description is present. The first step is to determine what the claim as a whole covers, i.e., discussion of the full scope of the claim. Second, the application should be fully reviewed to understand how applicant provides support for the claimed invention including each element and/or step, i.e., compare the scope of the claim with the scope of the description. Third, determine whether the applicant was in possession of the claimed invention as a whole at the time of filing. This should include the following considerations: (1) actual reduction to practice, (2) disclosure of drawings or structural chemical formulas, (3) sufficient relevant identifying characteristics such as complete structure, partial structure, physical and/or chemical properties and functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, (4) method of making the claimed invention, (5) level of skill and knowledge in the art and (6) predictability of the art. For each claim drawn to a single embodiment or species, each of these factors is to be considered with regard to that embodiment or species. For each claim drawn to a genus, each of these factors is to be considered to determine whether there is disclosure of a representative number of species that would lead one skilled in the art to conclude that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention. Where skill and knowledge in the art is high adequate written description would require fewer species to be disclosed than in an art where little is known; further, more species would need to be disclosed to provide adequate written description for a highly variable genus.

First, what do the claims as a whole cover?

Second, how does the scope of the claims compare to the scope of the disclosure? The disclosure contains the same language found in claims.

Third, the factors need to be considered.

(1) What was actually reduced to practice?

The method of transforming a *Pseudomonas* strain was shown to manufacture a glucose dehydrogenase with and without a β -subunit.

(2) Is there disclosure of drawings or structural chemical formulas?

The nucleic acid sequences encoding the subunits are disclosed for a species isolated from *Burkholderia cepacia* KS1 strain.

(3) Are there sufficient relevant identifying characteristics disclosed?

There are insufficient relevant identifying characteristics disclosed for the method of making glucose dehydrogenase's with different subunit composition from the same transformant.

(4) Is there at least one method of making the claimed invention disclosed?

The method of making a transformant is disclosed.

(6) What is the level of predictability of the art?

The level of predictability in this art is very low since, there is no information upon which to base a prediction of what conditions are suitable for formation of the genus of glucose dehydrogenases, with and without a β -subunit as currently being claimed.

Thus, having analyzed the claims with regard to the Written Description guidelines, it is clear that the specification does not disclose a representative number of species which would lead one skilled in the art to conclude that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention.

Claim Objections

9. Claims 1, 7-12, 15, and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities:
10. The reference to SEQ ID NO: has a period after the abbreviation for number. Suggest, "SEQ ID NO:" instead of ---SEQ ID NO.:---.
11. Appropriate correction is required.

Conclusion

12. No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANAND U. DESAI whose telephone number is (571)272-0947. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew J. Wang can be reached on (571)272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

May 11, 2009
/ANAND U DESAI/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1656